THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"We all know Bill Clinton has nine lives. It just depends on which one he's on right now...."

- Chris Sautter, Hoosier-bred Democratic c nsultant in Washingt n, D.C., commenting n President Clinton's sex scandal n Jan. 26

Three scenarios in Clinton's sex crisis

How might Indiana politics be impacted

INDIANAPOLIS - Jan. 28 - We don't know enough.

There is no way to reasonably assess the political damage to President Clinton and its impact on the Indiana political environment with what we know now about the engulfing sex scandal involving White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

President Clinton's 72-minute State of the Union speech Tuesday night cloaked the intrigue and mystery that has made the last 10 days one of the most bizarre episodes in the American presidency. Arguably the potential for the most cataclysmic change in presidential status exists since November 1963 when President Kennedy was assassinated. President Nixon's resignation over Watergate came at the end of a long, agonizing crescendo.

This Clintonian crisis has roots that go back to 1992, but it's lightning-fast elevation into a potentially devastating event is unprecedented. So has been the wide-eyed lunging at every clue and innuendo and presidential phrase uttered from a mob-like mainstream news media.

Within minutes of Clinton's conclusion of his State of the Union speech, CNN was reporting that Independent Prosecutor Kenneth Starr had obtained access to lawyers in the Paula Jones case. That came on a day when First Lady Hillary Clinton talked of a "right wing plot" to bring down the president. "Bill and I have been accused of everything including murder by the same people behind these allegations," Mrs. Clinton said on NBC's Today Show.

On Sunday, Clinton allies like James Carville were "declaring war." Everyone was talking about the scandal except the president.

With this wild backdrop (and knowing it could change dramatically before this newsletter is delivered), HPR will walk through three scenarios and how it might impact Hoosier politics: **1.)** What happens if Clinton is accused of perjury and resigns; **2.)** What hap-

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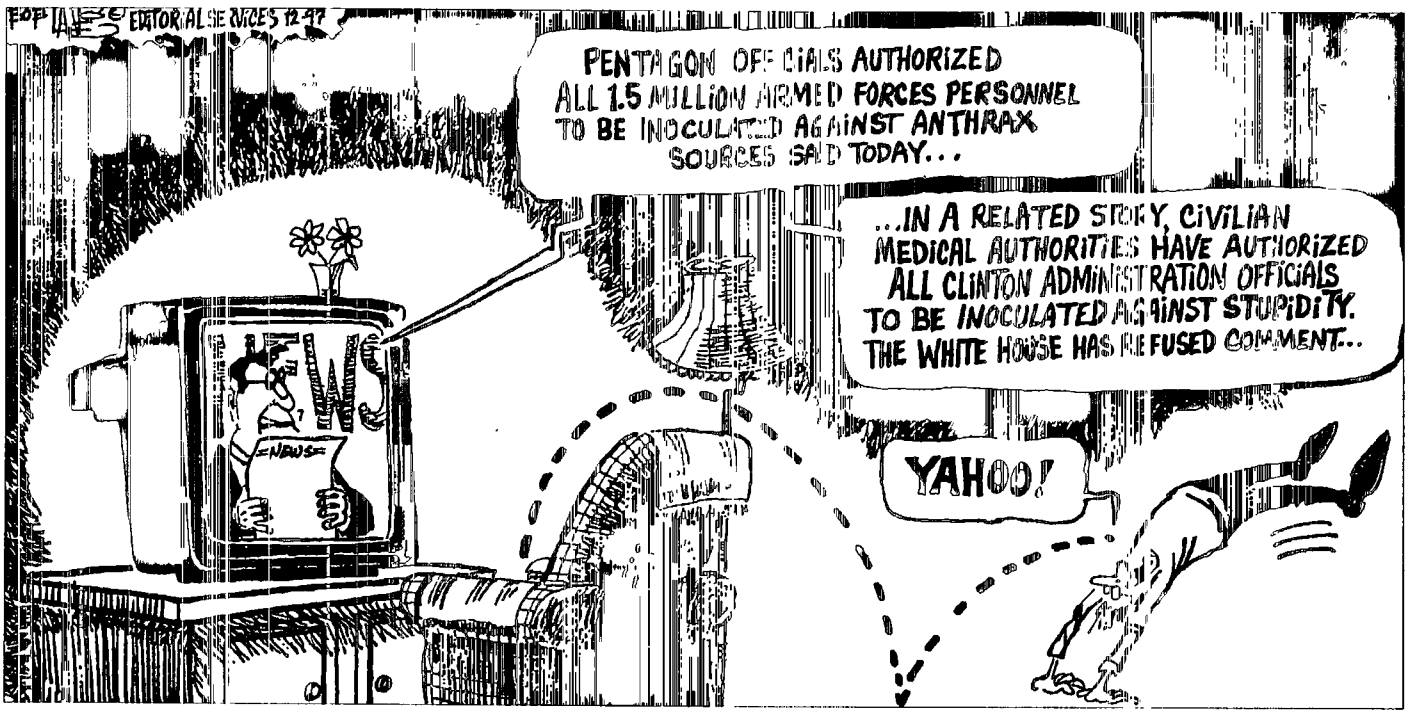
Bob Lang



TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: State Sen. Robert Meeks, the LaGrange Republican, has authored a bill that would outlaw left lane hogs - the idiots who drive perpetually in the left lane on four-lane highways. FINALLY! Meeks told the Associated Press, "It's so simple and we've all been there." HPR recalls a day in January 1996 when we watched a Republican gubernatorial candidate drive all the way across Northwest Indiana in the left lane on U.S. 30. The irony was this was a candidate from the right wing.

■ ■ ■

State Sen. Tom Wyss may have created the biggest splash of

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Scandal, *from page 1*

pens if his accusers are credible but he decides to fight to the end; and 3.) His accusers lose substantial credibility.

President Clinton resigns

After watching ABC's Nightline on Jan. 21, this seemed like a real possibility. HPR believes that enough recorded data (phone records, White House visits, deliveries) exists that will allow Americans to determine whether Bill Clinton had an extramarital relationship with Monica Lewinsky. This could happen within the next week or two.

It would take an indictment of perjury to mortally damage the Clinton presidency. A White House visit by Sens. Patrick Moynihan and Sam Daschle and other party elders such as U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton would signal a hemmorhage of Democratic support, similar to Barry Goldwater's Aug. 6, 1974 visit to Nixon.

Politically, a swift resignation would have little impact on 1998 politics like competitive congressional races in the 8th, 9th and 10th CDs. But it could be a short-term boom for Evan Bayh and someone like Hamilton.

Hamilton would immediately top a list of potential vice presidential candidates if Al Gore moved up. Hamilton has the integrity, honesty and foreign policy attributes that the nation and the Democratic Party would be seeking to quickly suture all wounds. A delayed retirement for Hamilton would allow a President Gore more time to assess the 2000 presidential climate and, for instance, add a woman or a minority to the ticket.

A Gore elevation to the White House could bring movement to Indiana's professional political structure. Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew might be indicted to join a Gore administration out of a sense of patriotism even after he turned down his deputy chief of staff offer last summer.

Other Indiana operatives like Washington - based consultant Chris Sautter might also latch on to either a Gore political or West Wing team.

As for former Gov. Evan Bayh, a quick Clinton departure could elevate him into a more conspicuous national role, should he win a Senate seat this November.

Bayh is already expected to quickly make this ascent, but with Clinton out of the picture, this would happen more rapidly. No matter what, it is hard to see Bayh joining a national ticket in 2000. He is too much like Al

Gore. But 2004 and 2008 fits his presidential timeline.

Clinton fights to the bitter end

This is a potential disaster scenario for Indiana Democrats, as well as those nationally.

Suppose President Clinton is indicted for perjury. The recently scandalized Dick Morris is back on the Clinton team. ABC News analyst George Stephanopolous said Tuesday night of an indictment scenario and the Clintons, "They are going to fight 'til the end. This White House is not going to go out easy. They'll drag it out."

If that were to happen, it could poison the national dynamic against all Democratic candidates, similar to what Watergate did in 1974 or as the reaction to Big Government did in 1994. Democratic CD candidates would be forced to support or oppose an embattled White House. Democratic CD candidates like Reps. Julia Carson, Tim Roemer and challengers like Baron Hill and Gail Riecken would all be more vulnerable should Republicans nominate credible candidates. Democrats would have trouble raising money down the campaign homestretch.

This scenario would pose a troubling problem for Evan Bayh's Senate campaign against either Paul Helmke or Peter Rusthoven. President Clinton went out of his way to embrace Bayh at Michigan City in 1996 on his way to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Bayh gave the keynote address the next evening (while clashing with the Gore team behind the scenes in a tug-of-war over the speech time). It would be quite logical to expect the Republicans to roll out the Washington Park tape of Clinton and Bayh together in Michigan City and that could be devastating.

For a historic gauge of this type of scandal-induced volatility, all you have to do is go back to Richard Lugar's 1974 challenge to U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh. Lugar trailed by double digits leading up to Nixon's resignation in a contaminated national dynamic for Republicans. He snapped back within days of the Aug. 9, 1974 resignation to an almost deadheat with Birch Bayh. Lugar was finally blown out of the water when President Ford pardoned Nixon the following month.

"It was like being on the end of a yo-yo," Lugar told HPR earlier this year.

Said Brad Tracy of the Indiana House Republican Caucus of an embattled and wounded Bill Clinton, "It would be better for us for him to bleed rather than die."

Tracy added, "But you can't be excited about that. It's bad for the country. It's embarrassing."

Clinton's a victim of a hoax

What would happen if this were all a hoax?

If that were to occur, there would be a natural tendency for Hillary Clinton's assertion that the Lewinsky sex scandal was part of a "right wing conspiracy."

The poll numbers would snap back for the Democrats, probably lifting Bayh, Hill, Roemer and Carson out of trouble.

But it is hard to believe that it would hurt Republicans, who have been virtually silent, following the old axiom that you keep quiet while an opponent destroys himself.

"I think the sooner we get this resolved, the better for everybody," said U.S. Rep. David McIntosh in Indianapolis on Monday. "My goal would be to get everything out on the table. Let's step back and let the facts speak for themselves."

Any natural "right wingers" - McIntosh or Reps. Dan Burton or Mark Souder - are all expected to ease into re-election this year.

What does HPR think?

First, President Clinton was foolish for not settling the Paula Jones suit after he won re-election in 1996. He could have said it was better for the country and corrected the historical record in his post-presidential memoirs.

While the "right-wing" conspirators are out there, Lewinsky is not their mole. Her recorded gazes at him tell us there was some type of chemistry at play. His denials in the Gennifer Flowers case are now troubling since he has fessed up. Finally, every operation Hillary touches in the White House has been a disaster.

The gut check here is that President Clinton is in big, big trouble. ✍

TICKER TAPE

publicity so far in this session of the Indiana General Assembly. The Fort Wayne Republican offered to take members of the Senate Public Policy Committee out to get drunk with him. While legislative history is rich with such offers, Wyss had a greater point in mind - to show his colleagues who were about ready to vote down a .08 BAC bill that it really does take a lot of drink to get drunk. While some observers were quick to ridicule Wyss for the idea, some felt it was a shrewd move. "They'll be able to see just how impaired they are at 0.08," said Wyss (John Krull, Indianapolis Star/News). Wyss had another motive. State Sen. Connie Sipes of New Albany missed the meeting - her daughter had been in a traffic accident - and the bill would have died by a 5-5 vote.

Former Vice President Dan Quayle called the sex scandal allegations involving President Clinton "disgusting."

University of Notre Dame Law School Dean David Link said the best course for President Clinton is to tell the truth. "Each lie creates the opporunity to lie more," said Link (Jennifer Martin, South Bend Tribune). "My advice would be ... tell what happened, and if you did something wrong, apologize."

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Watching the mavericks (Alevizos, Bales, Stephen)

We add House District 50 to the list this week with the announced retirement of Republican Rep. Dan Stephan of Huntington. He and Rep. Jerry Bales represent the two most conspicuous GOP mavericks who are either going quietly, or will run kicking and screaming. The Democratic maverick, State Rep. Tom Alevizos, is apparently reconsidering. In our status report, **Toss-Up** means the race is within a statistical margin of error or we're on to something; **Leans** is just outside the margin of error and up to, say, 9 percent; **Likely** is about 10 to 15 points and a good gut feeling,, and **Solid** means watch out for a landslide.

HORSE RACE

Indiana Statehouse Race

Secretary of State: **R Convention:** Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy. **D Convention:** Tim Jeffers, State Sen. Cleo Washington. **HPR General Forecast:** Gilroy v. Jeffers. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers (D) 542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Forecast:** Democrats still haven't decided whether they want to waste talent and resources on a race that is virtually unwinnable when they are going to need every dollar to control the House. Jeffers makes more sense than Washington, a potential rising star from South Bend, since he's in Indy and raised $ 50,000 in just four months. Democrats may decide to send someone in to rough up Gilroy, who is looking like the 2000 gubernatorial frontrunner (although read pages 6-7). **Status:** *Solid R.*

Indiana Legislative Races

House District 9: **R Primary:** Open. **D Primary:** Scott Pelath, Dennis Matheny, Rep. Tom Alevizos. **Geography:** Michigan City, LaPorte County. **HPR General Forecast:** Pelath. **1994 results:** Alevizos (D) 11,202 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Alevizos15,424 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Rep. Tom Alevizos is now considering a run for re-election. Our LaPorte County sources say he is learning that he cannot win a prosecutor's race there. If Speaker John Gregg restores his chairmanship, he'll run as a Democrat. If not, he'll go as an independent. If Alevizos stays in as a Democrat, he will have his hands full with Scott Pelath. Regardless, this is a strange situation. Stay tuned. **Status:** *Solid D.*

House District 50: **R Primary:** Dr. Gary Dillon, Scott Darley, Rodney Putt, Mary Blanford. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Huntington and Whitley counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Dillon vs. Yingst. **1994 Results:** Stephan (R) 13,418, Yingst 5,392. **1996 Results:** Stephan 15,856, B. Yingst 5 855. **1998 Forecast:** State Rep. Dan Stephan is calling it quits, tired of the grind that goes with being a Republican maverick. Leading contender is Huntington dermatologist Gary Dillon, who lives in Whitley County. That gives him a base in both counties. Others to challenge are Whitley restaurateur Scott Darley, Rodney Putt and Mary Blanford. At least one of the Yingsts (a husband and wife team who ran novelty campaigns in both parties back in 1992) will probably emerge to provide Democratic opposition in the fall. This being the Land O'Quayle, we expect it to stay in the R column.**Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 60: **R Primary:** Rep. Jerry Bales v. Monroe County Councilman Jeff Ellington. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Bloomington, Monroe and Greene counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Bales. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Forecast:** This is turning into the most fascinating primary, and it's actually caught the attention of the Indianapolis Star. Here are two ways to handicap this. One, Bales is going to need Democratic votes to perservere in the primary. But there is going to be an intense Democratic sheriff primary in Monroe County, where a well-publicized controversy makes that office a top priority with voters. So Bales may not be able to count on Dems and Independents to bail him out with the expected onslaught of IU College Republicans (if they stick around the primary after classes) and the Monroe GOP organization. But how's this for a counter: Coach Bob Knight authors a ringing endorsement of his ol' buddy Bales that drops into 15,000 mail boxes a couple of weeks before the election. Status: *Leans Bales.*

Brian A. Howey

Legislative Open Seats

1 - Ron Tabaczynski
9 - Tom Alevizos
10 - Esther Wilson
37 - Rolland Webber
50 - Dan Stephan
73 - Dennis Heeke

Rematches

34th - Vanleer v. Adams

46th - Lohr v. Tincher

80th - Becker v. GiaQuinta

67th - Goble v. Duncan

94th - Hirman v. Marendt

Off the Hit List

33rd - Ron Liggett
37th - Scott Mellinger
52nd - Dale Sturtz

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Larry Lough, *Muncie Star Press* - Our nation is embarrassed for a couple of reasons: The president has a reputation that would make the allegations believable, whether or not credible evidence exists to support them. As one New York newspaper reporter said, "No one is saying, 'This isn't the Bill Clinton we know.' (And) the national news media, particularly television, has seemingly no standards for information it relays to the public. Journalists are supposed to be skeptical about information, challenge its credibility, question the motives of sources, pursue verification, seek balance. One TV reporter expressed amazement this past weekend that after being the subject of four days of allegations, President Clinton has seen his approval rating among Americans fall by only 2 percentage points. That says that Americans 1.) are highly skeptical about charges in the political arena, especially those against Clinton, whose three-year, $30 million scrutiny by a special prosecutor hasn't scratched the president, and 2.) don't believe everything (much?) they hear from the media, especially television. ✍

Brian Howey, *HPR* - Now we are faced in the span of less than 25 years two presidencies ending in scandal and illegal actions. While many Republicans remain extremely bitter about the Nixon resignation and Bork's defeat, it is easy to imagine that Democrats will be looking for a payback for the next Republican president. The animosity involved in such institutionalized retribution could end up cascading the American political structure to a point where the parties' top priorities will be to savage the other, and damn the consequences. The jabbing notion that we may end up with an Italian type of governance where regimes come and go with accelerating frequency should disturb us all. What is to say that instead of the next presidential resignation coming in 25 or 50 years, it may happen in 12? And the next one after that three years? As this most sensational story unfolded last Wednesday, the public opinion surveys revealed a reticence in the American people to prematurely judge. Today, the collective attention span of the American people has been splayed into an array of attention gathering activities and devices ranging from the Internet, to work, to raising kids single-handedly. So much so that most of those eligible don't vote and even those who do don't pay that much attention. Americans may be on the brink of learning a terrible lesson: It's dangerous to lose our moral bearings. ✍

R. Bruce Dold, *Chicago Tribune* - Thanks to Bill Clinton, I had a brief conversation with my 13-year-old daughter this week about whether the President of the United States had an affair with a young intern at the White House. That's not a conversation I wanted to have. I doubt that Clinton will be impeached, or will be compelled to resign to avoid impeachment. Few people relish the chance to repeat what the nation went through with Richard Nixon. No, more likely it's going to be a long, slow, demeaning slide toward the end of his presidency. Three years of events just slightly less strange than what happened Wednesday, when the President of the United States interrupted Middle East peace discussions to deny he had sex with an intern. ✍

Mike Pence, *Village Sampler* - Is Bobby Knight too tough on kids? Absolutely, but that is precisely how he has managed to build teams that hold a game plan together even in the fabled Final Four. The concept is simple: If you can live through the high stress environment of playing for Coach Knight, keeping your cool when a national championship is on the line is a piece of cake. The best scene in the movie "Hoosiers" is where the locals gather to vote on keeping Gene Hackman on as head coach of the Hickory Hicks. When it comes to a choice between whiners versus standing up for a tough-minded approach to making boys to men, I would borrow a line at the end of that scene ... "The coach stays." ✍

TICKER TAPE

New Castle Mayor Sherman Boles highlighted many improvements over the past year in his State of the City address. Boles, who will challenge U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, noted the six new police officers and numerous public projects. "I want to make it perfectly clear that I don't accept the credit for thje progress this city has made," Boles said. "I was part of it, but every person has been a key player." Boles added, "We've paid cash for this, and we don't owe anything."

Gary Mayor Scott King laid out a blueprint of economic hope "amidst a promise of better public safet" (Daniel Yovich, Munster Times). King noted that Gary had 99 murders in 1997, a 7.5 percent decrease. Violent crime decreased by 16 percent. He noted that he will hire 17 additional police officers. Yovich noted that King was "still visibly emotional over the murder this month of police Det. Dorian Rorex" and said that public safety was his top priority. "And even this small advance is marred by the rcent tragic death of Det. Dorian Rorex," King said. "But it is because of the dedication and commitment of officers like Rorex that our crime rate is decreasing."

Almost all categories of major

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crime increased in Vanderburgh County in 1997, the Evansville Courier reported. It said there were 7,750 major offenses in 1997, compared to 7,403 in 1996. Major offenses includes homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft. The only category to decrease was assault, down 520 from 566 the year before.

Evansville City Councilwoman Gail Riecken opened up the 8th CD campaign against U.S. Rep. John Hostettler by calling on him to oppose new Medicare guidelines that would cut home health services for senior citizens (Alan Julian, Evansville Courier). "It's not right to cut the seniors off ... they're just torn up inside over this," Riecken said. Hostettler spokesman Michael Jahr said the congressman was not aware of the impact the measure would have on home health care. "It was not an issue that was brought to his attention before the vote," Jahr said. Hostettler has not decided whether he will vote to restore home health care eligibility.

EMILY's List has endorsed Riecken's candidac. "Gail Riecken has an excellent opportunity to take back a Democratic seat in the House," said EMILY's List President

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McIntosh, Lugar Offer Proposals

Two Hoosiers push the tax reform debate

By Mark Schoeff Jr.
Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 -- Tax reform is quickly moving to the top of the 1998 political agenda, and two members of the Hoosier congressional delegation are in the middle of the debate.

Rep. David McIntosh (R) is gaining momentum for his proposal to end the "marriage penalty," a characteristic of the tax code that forces married couples to pay a higher tax rate for the second wage earner than he or she would pay as an individual. McIntosh's bill, which would allow couples to choose whether to file as a couple or separately, depending on how they could achieve a better tax rate, has garnered 235 co-sponsors in the House. He has launched a statewide tour to promote his idea.

While McIntosh is trying to reduce the tax burden on married couples, Sen. Richard Lugar (R) continues to push for a systemic change in the tax system. Lugar will advocate his proposal to abolish the income tax and replace it with a sales tax during a tax reform debate in Washington in early February. The event also features former GOP vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp and House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt. Kemp promotes the flat tax and Gephardt backs a progressive percentage income tax.

Lugar unveiled his idea to abolish the income tax and replace it with a sales tax three years ago during his presidential campaign, saying that such reform is needed to increase savings, investment and wages. In January 1997, he became the first senator to offer a resolution to scrap the income tax and the Internal Revenue Service. The resolution also calls for the end of the 16th Amendment, established the income tax.

McIntosh's bill to eliminate the marriage tax stemmed in part from a plea by two of his constituents, Sharon Mallory and Darryl Pierce of Straugh. The couple, who work at Ford Electronics in Connersville, wrote to the congressman lamenting that they couldn't afford to get married because their tax bill would be untenable. After getting married, Mallory would lose her $900 tax refund, and the pair would incur a $2,800 tax bill. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the average marriage penalty is $1,400.

"Obviously those Hoosiers are at the cutting edge of this issue," said Ari Fleischer, spokesman for House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer (R-Tx). Archer's panel has enormous influence on the tax debate because it writes tax legislation. Archer himself is a leading tax reform proponent. On Jan. 20, he announced a program of billions of new tax cuts, an end to the "marriage penalty" and a limit on all federal revenue to 19 percent of the total economy, a reduction from the current 19.9 percent. Archer, like Lugar, favors eliminating the income tax and replacing it with a sales tax.

CONGRESS WATCH

The Ways and Means Committee will launch a series of hearings this week designed to examine the many different tax reform proposals. At the end of the exercise, Archer will choose which ones to include in the chairman's mark, which is the starting point for any bill the committee sends to the House floor. McIntosh is scheduled to testify before the Archer committee on Jan. 28.

"**The chairman welcomes** a competition of ideas," said Fleischer. "He'll give everyone a chance to make their best case."

The rubric that Archer will use to evaluate the proposals is composed of three basic principles: 1. the proposal doesn't upset the balanced budget plan, which was passed by Congress last fall and will eliminate the federal budget deficit by 2002, or perhaps earlier if strong economic growth continues; 2. the pro-

posal doesn't overpromise; **3.** the proponents are conservative in their approach.

Critics of the McIntosh marriage penalty bill argue that it will violate Archer's first rule. Eliminating the penalty will cost $18 billion annually, according to a report in the *Wall Street Journal.*

McIntosh says the bill will not bust the budget. "With the economy so strong, this is an appropriate time to get rid of the marriage penalty." Another way to pay for the penalty elimination is to reduce the size of government. McIntosh pointed to welfare as one possibility. Even though federal welfare roles have declined by 30 - 40 percent, spending has increased by 10 percent, he said.

"We're willing to work with our colleagues to find offsets in spending," McIntosh said. "This will not throw us off track for a balanced budget."

A Washington economist agrees with McIntosh's approach. "The tax changes he advocates along with the spending cuts would leave things revenue neutral," said Mike Schuyler, of the Institute for Research on the Economics of Taxation. "I find that plausible in a technical sense. In terms of economics, it's a coherent proposal."

Some would say that the marriage penalty emanated from an attempt to make the income tax system progressive, charging higher rates to households that make more money. McIntosh calls that argument warped. "It's nuts to say that we're going to tax families more than single people."

One of the main arguments in favor of tax reform is to increase America's paltry level of savings. One criticism of a perennial crown jewel of tax reform -- a child tax credit -- is that it is consumed instead of saved. Schuyler doesn't believe that eliminating the marriage penalty would be subject to that shortcoming.

The key question is how will the reform affect the marginal tax rate, or the tax on the extra dollar that people earn. "By allowing splitting, the marginal rate would go down," he said of the McIntosh marriage penalty proposal. For instance, instead of the couple's earning being taxed at the 28 percent level, they could each file separately at 15 percent.

Leaving aside the economic arguments, his push to eliminate the marriage penalty is producing political dividends for McIntosh. He has gained much mileage with conservative groups, including the Christian Coalition, to whom he spoke at an Atlanta meeting in September. He says he wants the marriage penalty bill, which appeals to working families and women, to define the GOP as "pro-family." He said the conservative GOP victor in a recent California special election captured his win in part because of the popularity of the eliminating the marriage penalty.

At home, he is in the midst of a statewide campaign to build support for the idea with other members of the Hoosier congressional delegation and with members of the state legislature. McIntosh has appeared outside his district in Evansville, New Albany, South Bend and Fort Wayne. He held media events in Chicago on Jan. 22 with his co-author, Rep. Jerry Weller. He and Weller also appeared in Indianapolis on Jan. 26. McIntosh also has an upcoming event scheduled in Lafayette with Rep. Ed Pease.

McIntosh said he is taking a page from Lugar's playbook by following a "team approach" and "campaigning with people down ticket." He wants to help Republicans gain control of the state legislature. Lugar, at the top of the ticket in the 1994 campaign, formed the "Lugar team" with other statewide candidates, all of whom swept into office during that watershed year.

Although he is following Lugar's political strategy, McIntosh and the senator are taking different approaches to tax reform. McIntosh wants to make an adjustment now, Lugar is looking at the big picture -- overhauling the entire system.

Is there creative tension between the systemic and the incremental camps? No, says Fleischer. "One player is at the plate, and one is on deck," he said.

Lugar spokesman Andy Fisher said that the senator's view is that overhaul "is still some time off. The main point now is to get the whole issue in front of the people and frame the debate. Understanding the proposals is fundamental right now." ✍

TICKER TAPE

Ellen R. Malcolm. In it's 12-year history, EMILY's List (Early Money Is Like Yeast) has helped elect three women governor's, six senators and 42 congresswomen. It operates as a donor network for pro-choice female candidates.

U.S. Rep. Ed Pease has announced he will co-sponsore legislation ending the marriage tax penalty. "Current law undermines the traditional institution of marriage," said Pease. "By working to reverse this unfair law, we have chosen to strengthen the family, not weaken it."

A symposium in honor of legendary GOP operative L. Keith Bulen is being formed at IUPUI. Bulen was President Reagan's political director and played a key role in President Nixon's 1968 and 1972 campaigns. On the committee selecting donations include U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, Lilly vice president Mitch Daniels, former Gov. Bob Orr, former Lt. Gov. John Mutz, former Mayor William Hudnut, Indiana Democratic and Republican Chairs Joe Andrew and Mike McDaniel, former Democratic Chair Gordon St. Angelo and former U.S. Rep. Andy Jacobs Jr.

Roll Call did a story on Congress losing some of its institutions,

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like U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton and U.S. Sen. Dan Coats. Hamilton told the story of House Speaker John McCormack forgetting the freshman's name in 1965. That changed on the eve of the caucus vote for Speaker, when McCormack called for Hamilton's vote. Hamilton said he would not be supporting the Speaker. "From that day on, McCormack remembered my name," Hamilton said.

Coats recalled for Roll Call his 50th birthday, when he attended a Chicago Cubs game. He was called from the stands to throw out the first pitch, a surprise arranged by his staff. Coats said that if he weren't a senator, he'd want to play shortstop for the Cubs.

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Tax rebate is big with citizens, but lawmakers are backing off

INDIANAPOLIS - The woman in the back seat of a Yellow taxi cab heading to her northside Indianapolis home from a Marsh grocery store was not an astute political observer.

O'Bannon? Mannweiler? Gregg? They were just empty names to her. But she was following the $100 tax rebate story.

"It passed the House," she informed HPR Publisher Brian Howey, who was riding shotgun with a cabbie to get the pulse of the community.

"Do you follow the process?" she was asked.

"Nope."

While working class citizens were clearly following the idea of a tax cut, lawmakers at the Statehouse seemed to be backing off quicker than the White House did from Monica Lewinsky.

The key driving force behind this development is State Sen. Larry Borst, who told the Associated Press the legislature was either going to do nothing on tax cuts or "spend $500 million foolishly."

Gov. Frank O'Bannon didn't seem to be pushing too hard either. "What I told the leaders is if they can't work it out and politically get into some kind of match and they can't come to a conclusion, if they don't have it done by March 14th, I'm certainly not calling them back," O'Bannon said in a classic FOB rambling sentence.

"And we would have a reserve then going into 1999 that gives us great strength."

Borst added, "The **governor** certainly didn't give any endorsement to anything, and I have the feeling the governor would just as soon the legislature didn't spend any of the money. He wouldn't be upset or unhappy if we went home without any tax relief or tax give-back."

If anyone was pushing something, it was House Speaker John Gregg, who pushed a shopping cart with Heather Harvey of Indianapolis and her 18-month-old daughter at a local supermarket. "For a single mother like Heather Harvey, who works at two jobs to keep her family's head above water, getting $100 back from the State of Indiana means quite a bit," Gregg said. "It means she can buy one and maybe even two weeks' worth of groceries for her family."

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